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Siri Satguru Partap Singh Ji

**AN APOSTLE OF UNITY, PEACE
AND NON-VIOLENCE**



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Siri Satguru Partap Singh Ji the spiritual head of the Namdharis was born about 70 years back in village Bhaini Sahib in Ludhiana district. His father was Satguru Hari Singh Ji and revered mother was named Siri Mata Jiwan Kaur Ji. He breathed his last on the night between 21st and 22nd August, 1959 at twelve midnight after a brief illness.

The Satguru was born when the holy Gurdwara at Bhaini Sahib was heavily guarded under the orders of the British Government. For 34 long years he remained under this heavy guard of the police and was virtually a prisoner till then. This picket of police continued from the year 1872 to 1921 and no Namdhari was allowed to enter the precincts of the Gurdwara unless he sought permission from the British Government.

Every Namdhari was treated as a rebel. No Namdhari could leave his village without intimation to the police. The late Satguru was thus handicapped in receiving proper education. In spite of this, he acquired vast knowledge of the Sikh Scriptures and Sikh history by the help of his mother Mata Jiwan Kaur Ji. Satguru

Partap Singh Ji thus came to imbibe deeply patriotic, religious and other social qualities. He was a straight forward and a sincere person and had stern faith in non-violence.

After the demise of his father, Satguru Partap Singh Ji took the charge of the pious and difficult duties of the Namdhari Panth. Under his able leadership, the Namdharis rose to their full status once again and showed to the world that they possessed the qualities of a true Sikh, a true Nationalist; a true peace maker and were lovers of humanity.

With this end in view, Satguru Partap Singh Ji called Guru Nanak Sarb Sampar-dai Conference in 1934 which was a thumping success.

In April, 1943 he convened a Hindu-Muslim-Sikh Unity Conference. Besides the Namdharis, the Akalis and representatives of other sects of the Sikhs, all shades of Hindus, Muslims, Congressmen, and others participated in the deliberations. Even the rulers of the princely States in the Punjab were invited to attend the Conference. Patiala, Kapurthala and Faridkot were represented by three important Chiefs, Baba Sawan Singh, the spiritual head of Radha

Swamis, also graced the occasion. The Conference which was attended by fifty thousand persons was a positive manifestation of the essential unity underlying all religious sects and creeds.

The Hindu, the Muslim and the Sikh leaders made historic speeches in the Conference and they expressed the hope that Indian people could be united under one banner. The All India Charkha Sangh held a Khadi Exhibition on this occasion. Almost all the persons present in the conference were clothed in Khadi. In fact, this Conference presented the sight of an All India Congress Session on a small scale. The proceedings of the Conference were marked by love, feeling of comradeship, simplicity and purity. During this Conference 17,000 persons used to dine at one time sitting in lines (pangats). Several such pangats used to dine in one day. No servants were employed to prepare meals (Langar) or for washing utensils. All such jobs were done by sewadars with great pleasure. Satguru ji and his two sons Maharaj Jagjit Singh Ji and Maharaj Bir Singh Ji served meals with their own hands to the guests.

A great Hawan-Yagya was organised in which one lakh and twenty five thousand

recitations [paths] of Chandi-di-war, were done by sitting around a big Hawan Kundi. There was seating arrangement for 125 reciters. These recitations of Chandi-di-war were made at a stretch, day and night, without any break. A very big Diwan was held on the day of the completion of these recitations and a big Hawan was performed. This may be judged from the fact that one tin of pure Ghee was utilized in every three hours. The Hindus and the Sikhs of all shades, pressmen and other gentry were invited to witness this Hawan-Yag which depicted the ancient Yagya of Devtas.

The late Satguru organised many Kavi Sammelans, Cattle Shows, and a Music Conference in which prizes were awarded to the winners. He possessed a very deep knowledge of music and loved the company of musicians, who recited gurbani to him daily.

CATTLE BREEDING

Satguru Partap Singh Ji was highly interested in cattle breeding. The maximum yield of milk per day of a cow has reached 74½ pounds and of his buffalo 54 pounds.

From the year 1948 upto the year 1957, Satguru's cattle had won prizes worth

thousands of rupees and had invariably stood first in the All India Cattle Shows, in the All India Army Horse Shows and also in other Regional Cattle Shows.

The Satguru was very fond of keeping thorough bred horses and was a keen lover of races. He was one of the best trainers of the race horses. He, however, never bet at such races throughout his life. Since 1957 he had given up participating in races. After this, he evinced more interest in breeding of horses. In the year 1958 a buffalo named Piaro stood first in All India Milk Yield Competition and was awarded Rs. 2,000. cash and a sanad. A cow named Piari stood first in the All India Milk Yield Competition and was awarded Rs. 2,000.00 cash and a sanad also.

Bhoo Dan and Co-operative Farming.

Siri Satguru Ji was a zealous believer in co-operative farming. To attain this end it was decided that a piece of land measuring about 12,500 acres be purchased and distributed among the members of the Namdhari Co-operative Society. Thus the above land was purchased in and about the village named Jiwan Nagar in Tehsil Sirsa of Hissar District before partition in the year 1946. Once a dry, unproductive waste Banjar Qadim land, with no means of

irrigation was levelled, cleared up of jungle, reclaimed and was changed into the smiling fields under the personal supervision and guidance of late Satguru Ji. Satguru Ji gave preference mostly to the tillers of the land in this co-operative farm. He also included landless poor as shareholders on payment of a nominal price, to be paid after earning from this very land. The land was a sort of gift to these people by His Holiness.

Late Satguru Ji distributed food to all these farmers for two years, free of charge after the partition. He spent about two lakhs of rupees for this noble purpose

The birth of the present Maharaja of Nabha had taken place by the blessings of Satguru Partap Singh Ji and on this occasion Bir Bhamarsi measuring 1150 acres and a Rolls Royce Car was given as gift to Satguru Ji by the father of the present Maharaja in the year 1921. A few years back a declaratory suit was brought by the Punjab Government to set aside this gift. This suit was dismissed even in an appeal by the High Court. After the decision of this case, Satguru Partap Singh Ji gifted this land in the year 1958 to the landless poor Namdharis without charging a single penny from them by a registered deed at Sirhind, District Patiala. All these donees have taken possession of the land and are enjoying the fruits

of it, thus helping in the Government's Grow More Food Campaign. This land which Satguru Ji had gifted to the poor people including the Harijans Namdharis, values Rs 10 lacs. Late Satguru Ji had given bullocks free of cost to those who did not possess any. He thus believed in the principles of co-operation, fraternity and earning of livelihood by honest means.

He was highly spiritual, truthful, believed in co-operation, non-violence and freedom of the country. He treated all persons of the motherland and outside India at the same level. He was a great preacher of temperance and simplicity. The result was that lakhs of his disciples have become teetotallers. He never tolerated breach in this rule and defaulters were always ex-communicated.

Satguru Partap Singh Ji undertook extensive tours within India and also in Siam, Burma, Malaya and Africa. He used to tour at the request of the devotees. This shows that he was respected by all shades of people within and outside the country.

Cow Protection

Cow protection and the help of the poor had been his keen interests all his life. Satguru Ji had been very anxious to see

that the cow slaughter was abolished totally in the country by an act of the Central Government. With this end in view, he convened several Diwans and participated in all such conferences organised by other societies. Resolutions were passed and prayers were held to ensure the protection of cows. Satguru Ji met Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru the Prime Minister and Shri Rajindra Prasad, the President of India several times in this connection. He impressed upon these leaders the necessity of protection of cows by legislation.

Satguru Partap Singh Ji had been helping Congress from the time he took charge of the Namdhari Panth bearing in mind no ultimate gain, but believing only that the Congress was doing the work which was started by Satguru Ram Singh Ji and had remained unfinished, as Satguru was deported to a foreign country for opposing the British Government. Satguru's mission was complete Independence of India.

Satguru ji had been attending all the Congress Sessions held during the British rule and had been helping in making them a success. In the year 1929, the British Govt. had pressed all the parties not to join the Congress Session held at Lahore, in which Shri Nehru was the President. Consequently all the Muslims and Sikhs had boycotted this Session, but the

Namdharis played a leading part in that session under the guidance of Satguru Ji. They very actively joined the procession on 100 horses without letting the British Government know, from which side they had come.

The British Government was astonished to see the alertness of the Namdhari Nationalists. A free *langar* was run near the Congress Pandal by Late Mata Jiwan Kaur Ji, revered mother of late Satguru Ji.

Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru, Shri Rajindar Prasad, Shri K.M. Munshi and other eminent leaders had visited Bhaini Sahib before and after partition, a number of times, in order to pay tributes to Satguru Partap Singh ji. On one occasion Shri Nehru himself ordered to arrange his visit to the holy Gurdwara of Bhaini Sahib in his tour programme in order to pay respects to Satguru Partap Singh ji.

Before the attainment of independence Satguru Partap Singh ji was present at the Azad-Wavell Conference, in which Maulana-Abdul-Kalam Azad asked Late Satguru ji the demands of the Namdharis. Upon this Satguru ji handed over a blank cheque on behalf of Namdharis saying that the sacrifices made by the Namdharis were for freedom of the mother-land and

not for getting rewards. He further assured that the Namdharis had been with the national movement before independence and shall remain with it after its attainment. He, however told Maulana Sahib frankly that the Congress should be kept free of immoral, corrupt and depraved persons

Principles followed and Preached.

Sat Guru Partap Ji preached the principles laid by Satguru Ram Singh Ji, founder of Namdhari movement popularly known as 'Kuka.' Satguru Ram Singh Ji was born at Bhaini Sahib on the Basant Panchmi of Samat 1872. He was in line with the great spiritual Gurus of the Sikhs, but he had vivified spiritualism with action and sacrifices against the tyranny of the British Rule. After the downfall of the Sikh Raj when utter demoralisation had set in among the Sikhs and other country-men, Sat Guru Ram Singh Ji once again infused in them the spirit of Sat Guru Nanak and Satguru Gobind Singh Ji.

Satguru Ram Singh Ji preached simplicity in living, in food, in dress and in worship. He believed that Western civilisation was detrimental to the simple living of the countrymen and to the solidarity and integrity of Bharat. He prohibited the use of foreign cloth and advocated the use of Swadeshi. Newly established British Government did not like the movement of non-cooperation and Swadeshi.

On the other hand strong measures were adopted to check the newly started campaign. The result was that Satguru Ram Singh Ji was interned in his village so as to prevent the propagation of his mission. Five Subas (Lieutenants) were appointed but they were arrested. Seventeen more Subas (Lieutenants) were appointed who were also arrested. The holy Gurdwara was searched and its floors dug several times under the suspicion of illicit arms. The British Government was on the look out of an excuse to take strong action against Satguru Ram Singh Ji and it made an incident at Malkerkotla an excuse. Consequently 80 Namdharis were blown before guns without any trial. Satguru Ram Singh Ji was arrested and deported to crush the spirit of nationalism for liberating Bharat from the yoke of foreigners.

A heavy police guard was put at the holy Gurdwara of Siri Bhaini Sahib from 1872 to 1921. Every Namdhari was subjected to police surveillance.

Satguru Ram Singh Ji had formulated rules which were followed, acted upon and preached by Satguru Hari Singh Ji and after his death by Satguru Partap Singh Ji. Following are some of the important principles:—

- (1) The highest purpose of life is the worship of God under the guidance of

the living Guru.

- (2) Gurus are indispensable at all periods of human history.
- (3) Piety and not the sword will rule in the present age.
- (4) The strength of nations and countries lies in love and unity.
- (5) 'Haván' and 'Yagya' make the country prosperous and bring rains when needed.
- (6) High character, simple food, and purity of thought raise the moral level of society.
- (7) It is sinful to injure any living creature by thought, word or deed.
- (8) To help the weak is a service to God.
- (9) Hospitality is one of the duties of a man.
- (10) Cow protection, their proper breeding and feeding make a nation strong, wise and prosperous.
- (11) To take wine and meat is a

great sin.

- (13) Do not castrate bulls, as it would arrest growth of cattle wealth.
- (13) Do not kill or sell girls or exchange them in marriage.
- (14) Pay the borrowed money.
- (15) It is not a good custom to give dowry.
- (16) Do not send children to British Institutions as they stamp them with foreign culture and make the shackles of slavery stronger still.
- (17) Obedience to the real rulers, the God and the Satguru is of paramount importance.
- (18) Settlement of all disputes should be effected mutually in own Panchayat.
- (19) All the great men of the world, regardless of their creed or race, should be respected.
- (20) Devote yourself to the service of Mankind.
- (21) Uphold the honour of the Motherland at all costs.

- (22) Men and women should be treated alike.
- (23) Simple marriages in open Dewans with only Rs. 1/4/-.
- (24) Widow re-marriage should be encouraged.

Satguru Partap Singh Ji throughout his life strictly followed, acted and preached the ideas of Satguru Ram Singh Ji. He recited Bhajan for an hour daily, rose very early in the morning and after taking bath that is (San Kesi Ashnan) would listen to the Kirtan of Asa Di War before sun rise. This rule was never slackened while travelling in car, train, ship or aeroplane.

His life was a life of action which will serve as a beacon of light to the Sikhs in particular and other persons in general.

Namdhari Panth has suffered a great loss in the demise of Satguru Partap Singh Ji. He is being succeeded by Maharaj Jagjit Singh Ji. The need of the hour as before is unity in the ranks of the Namdharis. Happily, the entire Namdhari Panth stands united under their living spiritual leader Maharaj Jagjit Singh.



Himattli Press, Sector: 30, Chandigarh-